

Origins of World War I

Grade 8 Social Studies

History of Newfoundland and Labrador



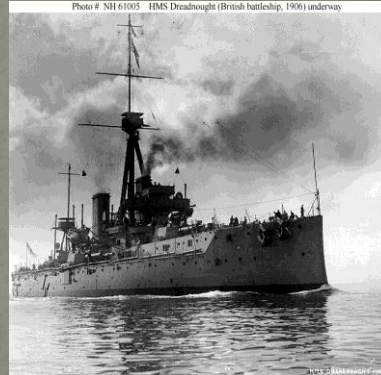
MAIN Causes Of World War I



Militarism

Militarism: the army and military forces were given a high profile by the government. This led to an arms race between the main European countries.

- The armies of both France and Germany had more than doubled between 1870 and 1914 and there was fierce competition between Britain and Germany for mastery of the seas.
- The British had introduced the 'Dreadnought', an effective battleship, in 1906. The Germans soon followed suit introducing their own battleships.



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Alliances

An **alliance** is an agreement made between two or more countries to give each other help if it is needed. When an alliance is signed, those countries become known as **Allies**.

A number of alliances had been signed by countries between the years 1879 and 1914. These were important because they meant that some countries had no option but to declare war if one of their allies declared war first.



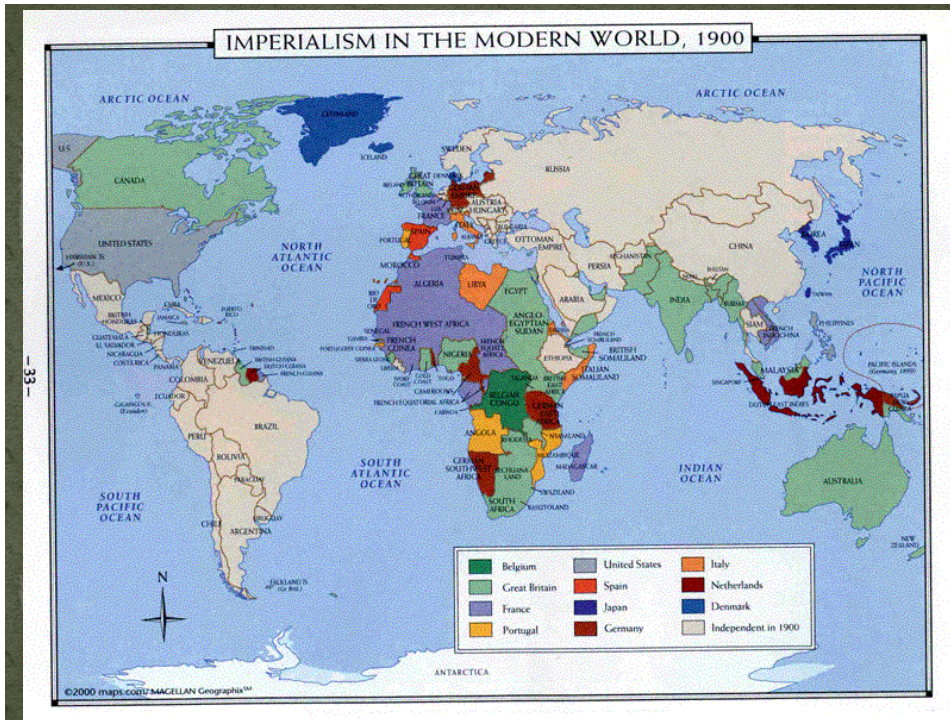
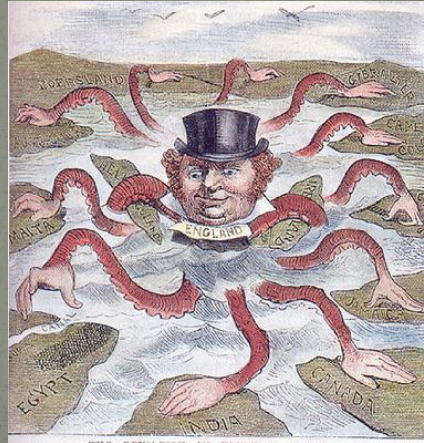
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Imperialism

Imperialism is when a country takes over new lands or countries and makes them subject to their rule. By 1900 the British Empire extended over five continents and France had control of large areas of Africa.

The amount of lands 'owned' by Britain and France increased the rivalry with Germany who had entered the scramble to acquire colonies late and only had small areas of Africa. This can be seen in the [map](#).

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Nationalism

Nationalism means being a strong supporter of the rights and interests of one's country. Because of previous wars, many European countries had been split up. Strong nationalist elements led to the re-unification of some countries, but large areas of both Austria-Hungary and Serbia were home to differing nationalist groups, all of whom wanted freedom from the states in which they lived. A modern day example would be Quebec Nationalism within Canada.

